



FLU VACCINE TRIAGE: Who *REALLY* Needs it? Who *GETS* it? How to decide?

Sponsored by BROWN MEDICAL SCHOOL and the OCEAN STATE ETHICS NETWORK

Thursday, December 2, 2004
Chancellor's Dining Room, Sharpe Refectory Bldg.
Corner of Thayer and George Streets, Providence
8:00-10:00 am

Presently, the current flu vaccine shortage is a serious health issue on a national and statewide level. There will not be enough vaccine to cover those population groups considered to be highest priority and most in need. For certain high-risk populations, the flu can be potentially lethal. For others, the flu can lead to a serious illness that results in lost time from work and school, and compromises vital family routines.

The shortage of flu vaccine has raised many important issues concerning the uncomfortable topic of bedside rationing. This symposium will provide an open forum for the discussion of this sensitive topic. What is the role of the flu vaccine? How are we defining burdens and benefits when it comes to the disease and the vaccine? What criteria should be considered relevant when deciding whether a patient does or does not get vaccinated and why? Who should make these decisions? How can we make this allocation process fair, justifiable, consistent, and transparent?

Objectives:

- 1) Address the scope of the flu vaccine shortage on a statewide level.
- 2) Develop a better understanding of how the present vaccine shortage impacts different communities of patients and health care providers.
- 3) Discuss bedside rationing and principles of distributive justice as it applies to the flu vaccine shortage.

Guest panelists:

- Marguerite A. Neill, MD, infectious disease specialist
- Helen Drew, Health Legislative & Community Liaison, RI Dept of Health

Accreditation: Brown Medical School is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Brown Medical School designates this activity for a maximum of 2 category 1 credits towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

REGISTRATION (There is no fee for this program)

Breakfast will be served!

Name _____

Degree: _____

Institutional affiliation: _____

Email: _____

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